

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-546)
109TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 518, L.D. 661, Bill,
"AN ACT to Require Each Primary Candidate to be a Resident
of the District from which he is Running Prior to the Primaries."

Amend the Bill by striking out all of the title and
inserting in its place the following:

'RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Provide
that^a/State Representative or Senator shall be^a/Resident
of the District he is Elected to Represent for a Continuous
Period Beginning on the Date Established for the Primary
Election until his Election as a Member and During his Term.'

Further amend the Bill by striking out everything after
the title and inserting in its place the following:

'Constitutional amendment. RESOLVED: Two-thirds of each
branch of the Legislature concurring, that the following amendment
to the Constitution of this State be proposed:

Constitution, Art. IV, Pt. First, §4, is amended to read:

Section 4. Qualifications. No person shall be a member of
the House of Representatives, unless he shall, at the
commencement of the period for which he is elected, have been
five years a citizen of the United States, have arrived at the
age of twenty-one years, have been a resident in this State one
year; and ~~for-the-three-months-next-preceding~~ from the date

established for the primary election until the time of his election as a member shall have been, and, during the period for which he is elected, shall continue to be a resident in the town or district which he represents.

Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective date. Resolved: That the city aldermen, town selectmen and plantation assessors of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, at a special statewide election on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November following the passage of this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

"Shall the Constitution of Maine be amended to provide that a State Representative or Senator shall be a resident of the district he is elected to represent from the date established for the primary election until his election as a member and during his term?"

The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question, and shall designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within the corresponding square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State

in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review the returns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal votes are in favor of the amendment, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay and the amendment shall become part of the Constitution on the date of the proclamation.

Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. Resolved:

That the Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this resolution necessary to carry out the purpose of this amendment.'

Statement of Fact

This resolution will permit the voters of the State to determine that no member of the House of Representatives or the Senate shall be qualified unless he has been a resident of the town or district he represents continuously from the date established for the primary election until his election as a member and during his term. Presently a member must be a resident for the 3 months prior to his election as a member and during his term.

Reported by the Majority of the Committee on Election Laws
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the
Clerk of the House.

5/30/79 (Filing No. H-546)